

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /093 W
-----057861 200323Z /21

R 191259Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6518
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0717

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, IR, NI, SO, ET
SUBJ: IRANIAN-NIGERIAN DISCUSSION ON THE HORN OF AFRICA
AND RHODESIA

1. 1. BRIG GEN SHEHU MUSA UAR'ADUA, NO. 2 MAN IN NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT, LEFT TEHRAN JANUARY 17 AFTER THREE DAYS OF TALKS AND SIGHTSEEING IN IRAN. PRINCIPLE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT, WHICH WAS THE FIRST AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL IN RECENT YEARS, WAS TO ESTABLISH CLOSER TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND NIGERIA. MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY NIGERIAN REQUEST TO BUY ARMS FROM IRAN, EVEN THOUGH THE GENERAL WAS PICTURED IN THE PRESS VISITING IRANIAN VMOW TOUFANIAN AND INSPECTING IRANIAN FACTORIES WHICH PRODUCE MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
2. YAR'ADUA APPARENTLY PLAYED A VERY PASSIVE ROLE IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH IRANIAN SIDE WHICH WAS LED ON THIS OCCASION PERSONALLY BY THE SHAH. REGARDING RHODESIA, HE HEARD OUT IRANIAN EXPOSITION IN FAVOR OF BLACK AFRICAN RIGHTS AND CONTEMPT FOR APARTHEID BUT WHICH ALSO POINTED OUT NEED FOR SOME
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SORT OF ARRANGEMENT TO PROTECT BASIC RIGHTS OF WHITE MINORITY TOO. IRANIAN CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT NIGERIA, AS RESPONSIVE, CONSERVATIVE STATE, DIDNOT DISAGREE WITH THIS APPROACH.

3. ON HORN OF AFRICA, NIGERIAN EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH NEED TO ENCOURAGE A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND

SOMALIA, BUT WAS NON-COMMITTAL AS TO ANY ROLE NIGERIA MIGHT
PLAY IN THIS PROCESS FOR INDEED ON DETAILS. HE PASSED OVER
WITHOUT COMMENT IRANIAN SUGGESTION THAT, WHILE IT IS IM-
PORTANT TO MAINTAIN PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTERGITY
BASED ON PRESENT BORDERS OF AFRICAN STATES SO AS TO SET
NO DISTURBING PRECEDENT, CASE OF OGADEN APPEARS TO MERIT
SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND ANY AGREEMENT COULD PERHAPS SET
UP A SPECIAL SELF-GOVERING STATUS FOR THAT TERRITORY.

4. DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC-COMMERICAL AGREEMENT WILL BE
REPORTED SEPARATELY. MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD EXPRESSED GENERAL
IRANIAN SATISFACTION OVER IMPROVED RELATION WITH NIGERIA.
FOR A LESS HAPPY REACTION FROM A HIGHER LEVEL OF THE GOI
SEE TEHRAN 0623.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MILITARY VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN00717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780030-0126
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780143/aaaabkdI.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5c2ec7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3745002
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN-NIGERIAN DISCUSSION ON THE HORN OF AFRICA AND RHODESIA
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, IR, NI, SO, ET, XW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c2ec7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014